

McCracken & Frank LLP

Attorneys At Law
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2150
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone: (312) 263-4700
Fax: (312) 263-3990

August 10, 2007

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TO: Examiner Jes F. Pascua
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

YOUR REF: Serial No.: 10/821,341

FAX: (571) 273-8300

FROM: Thomas R. Stiebel
Associate

PHONE:

OUR REF: J-3676A

No. of Pages including cover page: 9

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MESSAGE:

In anticipation of our teleconference on Tuesday, August 14, enclosed herewith is a Proposed Amendment A for discussion purposes only:

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PATENT
Docket No. J-3676A**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): James C. Pawloski

Serial No.: 10/821,341

Filed: April 9, 2004

For: CLOSURE DEVICE FOR A RECLOSABLE
POUCH

Group Art Unit: 3782

Examiner: Jes F. Pascua

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date:

August 7, 2007

Thomas R. Stiebel
Registration No. 48,682
Attorney for Applicants

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT A
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please review the following proposed amendments for our upcoming discussion on August 14, 2007. These proposed amendments are not intended to be a response to the pending Office action or to be made part of the record.

Proposed amendments to the claims, for discussion purposes only, are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

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Amendment A dated August 7, 2007
Response to OA dated June 18, 2007

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A reclosable pouch, comprising:
a body portion having first and second bag walls;
a first closure mechanism comprising a first male closure element and a first female closure element, wherein the first female closure element has first and second spaced legs, and wherein the first male and first female ~~closing~~ closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls;
a second closure mechanism spaced from the first closure mechanism and comprising a second male closure element and a second female closure element, wherein the second female closure element has third and fourth spaced legs, and wherein the second male and second female closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls; and
wherein the first male closure element includes two hook portions extending from an end thereof to engage the legs of the first female closure element and the second male closure element includes only one hook portion extending from an end thereof to engage one of the legs of the second female closure element.
2. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first male closure element disengages from the first female closure element with a first external opening force and the second male closure element disengages from the second female closure element with a second external opening force that is less than the first external opening force.
3. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first closure mechanism exhibits a first closure characteristic and the second closure mechanism exhibits a second closure characteristic different than the first closure characteristic.
4. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 3, wherein the first closure characteristic comprises a clicking feel when the pouch is closed.

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5. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 3, wherein the second closure characteristic comprises a first resistance to an external opening force applied to a first side of the second closure mechanism and a second resistance to an internal opening force applied to a second side of the second closure mechanism wherein the second resistance is greater than the first resistance.

6. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 5, wherein the first side of the second closure mechanism is disposed nearer a top of the pouch than the second side.

7. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first closure mechanism is disposed nearer a top of the pouch than the second closure mechanism.

8. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second closure mechanisms includes male and female closure elements and wherein the first female closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second male closure element of the second closure mechanism on the first bag wall and the first male closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second female closure element of the second closure mechanism on the second bag wall.

9. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second closure mechanisms includes male and female closure elements and wherein the first female closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second female closure element of the second closure mechanism on the first bag wall and the first male closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second male closure element of the second closure mechanism on the second bag wall.

10. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first male closure element engages with the first female closure element with a first closing force and the second male closure element engages the second female closure element with a second closing force.

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11. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein an overall closing force is in a range of about 0.20 to about 0.30 lb.

12. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first male closure element is substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

13. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the second male closure element is substantially asymmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

14. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 1, wherein the first and second female closure elements are substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

15. (Currently amended) A reclosable pouch, comprising:

a body portion having first and second bag walls;

a first closure mechanism comprising a first male closure element and a first female closure element, wherein the first female closure element has first and second spaced legs, and wherein the first male and first female ~~closing~~ closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls;

a second closure mechanism spaced from the first closure mechanism and comprising a second male closure element and a second female closure element, wherein the second female closure element has third and fourth spaced legs, and wherein the second male and second female closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls; and

wherein the first male closure element includes two hook portions extending from an end thereof to engage the legs of the first female closure element and the second male closure element includes only one hook portion extending from an end thereof to engage one of the legs of the second female closure element, such that the first male closure element disengages from the first female closure element with a first opening force and the second male closure element disengages from the second female closure element with a second opening force that is different than the first opening force.

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16. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 15, wherein a first external opening force of the first male and female closure elements is greater than a second external opening force of the second male and female elements.

17. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 15, wherein the first closure mechanism exhibits a first closure characteristic and the second closure mechanism exhibits a second closure characteristic different than the first closure characteristic.

18. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 17, wherein the first closure characteristic comprises a clicking feel when the pouch is closed.

19. (Original) The reclosable pouch of claim 17, wherein the second closure characteristic comprises a first resistance to an external opening force applied to a first side of the second closure mechanism and a second resistance to an internal opening force applied to a second side of the second closure mechanism wherein the second resistance is greater than the first resistance.

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20. (Currently amended) A reclosable pouch, comprising:
- a body portion having first and second bag walls;
 - a first closure mechanism comprising a first male closure element and a first female closure element, wherein the first female closure element has first and second spaced legs, and wherein the first male and first female ~~closing~~ closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls;
 - a second closure mechanism comprising a second male closure element and a second female closure element, wherein the second female closure element has third and fourth spaced legs, and wherein the second male and second female closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second bag walls; [[and]]
- wherein the first male closure element includes two hook portions extending from an end thereof to engage the legs of the first female closure element and the second male closure element includes only one hook portion extending from an end thereof to engage one of the legs of the second female closure element, such that the first male closure element engages with the first female closure element with a first closing force and the second male closure element engages with the second female closure element with a second closing force that is different than the first closing force; and wherein the first closing force of the first male and female closure elements is less than the second closing force of the second male and female elements.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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23. (Currently amended) A zipper tape, comprising:

a first zipper tape portion and a second zipper tape portion, wherein the first zipper tape portion includes a first inner surface and the second zipper tape portion includes a second inner surface;

a first closure mechanism comprising a first male closure element and a first female closure element, wherein the first female closure element has first and second spaced legs, and wherein the first male and first female ~~closing~~ closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second inner surfaces;

a second closure mechanism spaced from the first closure mechanism and comprising a second male closure element and a second female closure element, wherein the second female closure element has third and fourth spaced legs, and wherein the second male and second female closure elements are disposed on opposing sides of the first and second inner surfaces; and

wherein the first male closure element includes two hook portions extending from an end thereof to engage the legs of the first female closure element and the second male closure element includes only one hook portion extending from an end thereof to engage one of the legs of the second female closure element.

24. (Original) The zipper tape of claim 23, wherein each of the first and second closure mechanisms includes male and female closure elements and wherein the first female closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second male closure element of the second closure mechanism on the first inner surface and the first male closure element of the first closure mechanism is adjacent the second female closure element of the second closure mechanism on the second inner surface.

25. (Original) The zipper tape of claim 23, wherein the first male closure element is substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

26. (Original) The zipper tape of claim 23, wherein the second male closure element is substantially asymmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

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27. (Original) The zipper tape of claim 23, wherein the first and second female closure elements are substantially symmetric about a longitudinal centerline.

28. (New) The reclosable pouch of claim 20, wherein the first closure mechanism is disposed nearer the top of the pouch than the second side.